

Inspection of Sheering Village Preschool CIC

Sheering Village Hall, The Street, Bishop's Stortford, Essex CM22 7LX

Inspection date: 29 September 2023

Overall effectiveness	Inadequate
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The quality of education

Inadequate

Behaviour and attitudes

Inadequate

Personal development

Inadequate

Leadership and management

Inadequate

Overall effectiveness at previous
inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

Children's welfare is not assured. The provider has not made sure the premises are safe. Children are not provided with the level of education that they deserve. Leaders and managers have not designed a challenging curriculum that extends children's learning beyond what they already know. Staff fail to engage children in meaningful learning and do not consistently provide children with good-quality interactions. Therefore, children do not benefit from rich language experiences and this has a negative impact on children's progress. For example, during a dance session, staff tell children that exercise is good for their heart, but fail to extend on this to explore why or how, to deepen children's understanding.

Staff are not always clear what each child should be learning and how to support their individual interests. They do not interact purposefully enough with children to promote their focus on learning. Staff do not effectively bridge the gap in their learning overall and, as a result, children do not develop the knowledge and skills they need to be ready for school. Nevertheless, children arrive happy and eager to play. They are content to play with the toys available. Children have formed close bonds with staff, who provide them with plenty of praise. Staff explain the rules to children to help them understand about sharing and taking turns. Children behave well and enjoy being in each other's company.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- Leadership and management are weak. The provider has not done enough to ensure that children have a good early years experience that helps them be prepared for the future. The provider does not have the capacity to drive improvement or sustain it.
- Staff do not benefit from effective supervision or have regular opportunities for discussion about their practice. They have not had the professional development opportunities to improve the quality of their teaching and their understanding of how children learn.
- Staff lack the skills to extend children's learning further. Sometimes, they ask children questions, such as 'What colour is it?', however, they do not consider how to encourage children's thinking skills. Children find a crane fly in the garden and excitedly tell staff what they have found. Staff fail to follow children's interests or encourage them to explore the natural environment further.
- Children benefit from a 'buddy' system, where older children help the new children learn the routines. For example, they show younger children how to wash their hands thoroughly. However, during group times, staff focus on the more confident children, and do not include less confident and quieter children. This has a negative impact on their personal, social and emotional development.

- Children have good physical skills. They learn to move their bodies in a range of ways, including hopping on one foot and touching their toes. Children also enjoy exploring the play dough, where they pinch and roll the play dough, developing their fine motor skills.
- Parents speak highly of the staff. Parents comment they are like an 'extended family', where they nurture the children with their warm and approachable manner. They are impressed with the communication from staff using an online platform to share information about children's development and next steps in learning.
- Staff work with teachers at the primary schools where children are due to attend. They take children on several visits to the school to become familiar with the space and so that they can join in with the school assembly.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

The provider has failed to ensure that risk assessments are robust and carried out effectively, therefore, several hazards have not been identified. For example, the kitchen and office have not been made inaccessible to children, where there are multiple hazards, such as trailing wires and button batteries, within children's reach. Staff have not identified and removed broken resources. They have failed to consider the risks involved with a new climbing frame. For example, staff do not adequately supervise children or consider necessary safety measures to prevent children from harming themselves. This compromises children's safety and welfare.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage, the provider must:

	Due date
improve risk assessments to identify any hazards and ensure that these hazards are removed or minimised	06/11/2023
provide effective support, coaching and training, so that all staff have the knowledge and skills to fulfil their roles successfully and the interests of children are promoted	06/11/2023
plan and implement an ambitious curriculum that meets all children's learning needs, building on what children already know and can do.	06/11/2023

To further improve the quality of the early years provision, the provider should:

- engage with quieter and less confident children more frequently to enable them to get the most out of learning experiences.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY423302
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10289154
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	44
Number of children on roll	29
Name of registered person	Sheering Village Pre-School CIC
Registered person unique reference number	RP907381
Telephone number	01279 734306
Date of previous inspection	14 November 2017

Information about this early years setting

Sheering Village Preschool CIC registered in 2016. The pre-school employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and two at level 2. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday during school term time. Sessions are from 8.30am to 2.30pm. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Stef Montgomery

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The manager and inspector completed a learning walk together to discuss the areas of learning, their curriculum and what they want children to learn, both inside and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of a group activity with the manager.
- Children spoke about what they are doing at the pre-school.
- Parents spoke to the inspector who took account of their views of the pre-school.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including staff's suitability records and first-aid certificates and risk assessments.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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